

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /171 W
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R 011437Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4696
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION UN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSNAVEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM GENEVA

1. UPON HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA JULY 31 FOREIGN MINISTER
GEORGE MAVROS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT
ATHENS AIRPORT, AFTER WHICH HE ANSWERED A FEW QUESTIONS
DIRECTED AT HIM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS. PARTICULARLY
TO BE NOTED ARE HIS REFERENCES IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT TO
BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO NATO, HIGHLIGHTING THE DIFFICULTIES
WHICH THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS EXPERIENCED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF
THE GREEK-TURKISH CONFRONTATION OVER CYPRUS. STATEMENT OF TEXT
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FOLLOWS:

QTE THE SITUATION BOTH IN CYPRUS AND IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY GRAVE. IN CYPRUS, SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 353 OF JULY 20 WAS NOT APPLIED, AND MILITARY HOSTILITIES WERE CARRIED ON DAILY WITH FURTHER EXTENSION OF TURKISH POSITIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, TURKISH TROOPS WERE LANDED DAILY ON THE ISLAND, WHILE THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS GREW AND NICOSIA AIRPORT REMAINED CLOSED, WITH THOUSANDS OF VISITORS AND TOURISTS WANDERING IN THE STREETS OR STANDING OUTSIDE THEIR EMBASSIES ASKING FOR HELP.

GREECE AND TURKEY WERE PLACED ON A WAR FOOTING AND BOTH HAD ORDERED GENERAL MOBILIZATION, WITH TREMENDOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ECONOMIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

AN UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS HAD BROKEN OUT ON A WORLD SCALE, FIRST AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT NATO. THE UN AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL SAW THEIR RESOLUTIONS DISREGARDED, AND, IN NATO, TWO OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE ON THE VERGE OF DECLARING WAR ON EACH OTHER.

WHEN NATO IS IN NO POSITION TO PREVENT AN ARMED CLASH BETWEEN TWO OF ITS MEMBERS, HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD PROTECT THE WESTERN WORLD FROM AN OUTSIDE MENACE? AND WHEN UN RESOLUTIONS ARE THROWN INTO THE WASTEPAPER BASKET, WE WONDER WHAT IS THE KIND OF INTERNATIONAL ORDER PREVAILING IN THE WORLD TODAY.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR RECONSIDERING THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF WORLD BODIES WHICH EMERGED AFTER WORLD WAR II. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, SHORTLY AFTER MY SWEARING IN AS FOREIGN MINISTER, I LEFT FOR GENEVA LAST THURSDAY. I BELIEVE THAT NO FOREIGN MINISTER OF ANY COUNTRY HAS EVER FOUND HIMSELF FACED WITH SUCH A DIFFICULT MISSION.

MY FIRST AIM WAS TO SECURE A CEASEFIRE IN CYPRUS. SECOND, TO SUCCEED IN ACHIEVING RECOGNITION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE GUARANTOR POWERS OF THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

THIRD, THE LIBERATION OF PRISONERS OF BOTH SIDES. FOURTH,
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TO SECURE THE OPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT, AND FIFTH, TO REDUCE TENSION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, IN ORDER TO MAKE POSSIBLE DEMOBILIZATION IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND A RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE.

IN THE SECOND PHASE, WE SEEK TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS, AND FIND A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TWO COMMUNITIES. TALKS ON THESE SUBJECTS WILL OPEN IN GENEVA

ON AUGUST 8, AND ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES WILL ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE CONTINUOUSLY.

SHOULD GOOD WILL BE DISPLAYED BY BOTH SIDES, ALL OBSTACLES WILL BE OVERCOME AND GREECE AND TURKEY WILL HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR MISSION IN THE MUCH-TRIED AREA OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

WE ARE - BOTH GREEK AND TURKS - DOOMED BY HISTORY TO BE FRIENDS, OTHERWISE WE COULD NOT SURVIVE.

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OUR AIM WAS NOT TO REAP A DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH. WE WENT THERE TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION OF A SITUATION WHICH WAS LEADING TO WAR BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IMMEDIATE AIMS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED

IN FULL, AND FROM THAT STANDPOINT I CONSIDER MY MISSION SUCCESSFUL. UNQTE.

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS PREPARED STATEMENT, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE POSED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER REGARDING THE GENEVA DECLARATION, GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE POSITION OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS. SUMMARIES OF THESE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOW.

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QTE ASKED WHETHER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE NOT VAGUE, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS TURKISH WITHDRAWAL, MR. MAVROS REPLIED THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 353 PROVIDED FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES FROM THE ISLAND, AND THE GENEVA DECLARATION SAID WITHDRAWAL SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. 'THERE IS NO TIME SPECIFICATION, BUT THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS SHOULD BE APPRECIATED.'

'THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE BRIEFED, AND IF WITHDRAWAL DOES NOT TAKE PLACE WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD, THEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL DEAL WITH THE MATTER AGAIN.'

ASKED WHETHER THE GENEVA DECLARATION WAS A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, MR. MAVROS REPLIED THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC SO LONG AS GOOD WILL EXISTED IN BOTH COUNTRIES. 'GOOD WILL EXISTS ON THE GREEK SIDE,' HE SAID.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR. MAVROS SAID TURKISH TROOP WITHDRAWAL WAS A TECHNICAL PROBLEM. FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE WOULD RULE OUT PARTITION, ENOSIS (UNION WITH GREECE) AND FEDERATION.

THE SECOND PHASE OF THE TALKS IN GENEVA WOULD COVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHARACTER OF THE STATUTES OF THE ISLAND. 'WE SHALL NEVER IMPOSE PARTITION, ENOSIS OR FEDERATION ON THE ISLAND' MR. MAVROS SAID. 'CYPRIOTS WILL NOT HAVE IMPOSED UPON THEM A SOLUTION WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT.'

QUESTIONED REGARDING THE ATHENS ATTITUDE TOWARDS ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, MR. MAVROS SAID, 'BEFORE LEAVING GENEVA, I HAD A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, WHO IS THE LAW-FULLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS. WHEN HE WILL RESUME HIS DUTIES IS NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE.' UNQTE.
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